Shauchalaya" in the rural areas of the State under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme.

(b) and (c). An amount of Rs. 29.16 lakhs was utilised by the Raajsthan Government during 1987-88 for construction of 2,346 number of rural sanitation units in the State.

Exorbitant steel prices in India

1747. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is India's comparative position in the world market as regards prices of Indian steel; and

(b) whether India has the main ingredients for producing steel e.g. iron ore, coal, dolomite, manganese, lime-stone, cheap labour etc., if so, the reasons of its steel price being so very exorbitant ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) It would not be realistic to compare Indian steel prices with those prevailing in the international market as the latter are often kept lower than the domestic prices in the countries of origin in order to support exports. However, the domestic prices of Indian steel net of taxes and levies are comparable with those of other major steel producing countries.

(b) Yes, Sir. These ingredients are to a large extent available within the country. However, domestic prices in India apart from the producer's cost include various levies towards the Freight Equalisation Fund, the Steel Development Fund, the Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund, apart from Excise Duty and JPC Cess.

Gas based fertilizer plant in Cauvery or Godavari basin

1748. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had issued letter of Intent to Public or Cooperative or Private Sector to set up a gas-based fertilizer plant in the Cauvery or Godavari Basin;

(b) if so, what is the sector and the capacity initially planned for such a plant; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons that such a proposal had not been taken up, considering the potential of the huge gas availability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, the availability of adequate quantity of gas in the Godavari and Cauvery basins for setting up gas-based fertilizer projects has not been commercially established. However, for the naphtha-based fertilizer project being implemented by M|s. Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., Kakinada, a commitment in principle, has been given that if and when adequate gas becomes available in the Krishna-Godavari basin, they could switch over to gas as feedstock.

Oil Expellers in India

1749. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that oil expellers in India suffer from obsolete design, low extraction efficiency and high power consumption due to which the country annually loses about five lakh tonnes of edible oil; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to develop a modern integrated processing technology to increase oil recovery and the quality of cakes and extractions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) and (b). Indigenous oil expellers, by and